

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Dubelsten et al.

Filed: Herewith

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
CONTINUOUS FORMATION OF  
COMPOSITES HAVING FILLER AND  
THERMOACTIVE MATERIALS, AND  
PRODUCTS MADE BY THE METHOD

Date: March 8, 2001

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as requested below before this application receives substantive examination.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 26-31 and 66-72 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file continuing applications directed to the features of the cancelled claims.

Please add the following new claims:

--73. The apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising a surface modifier for surface modifying at least a portion of a surface of the composite.

74. The apparatus according to claim 73 where the surface modifying apparatus operates by flame oxidation, corona oxidation, e-beam, photoactivation, and combinations thereof.

75. The method according to claim 47 where continuously consolidating forms a composite, and the method further comprises surface modifying at least a portion of a surface of the composite.

76. The method according to claim 75 where surface modifying comprises oxidizing at least a portion of the surface, applying an electron beam to at least a portion of the surface, phototactivating at least a portion of the surface, and combinations thereof.

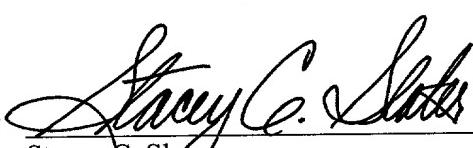
77. The method according to claim 76 and further comprising applying grafting chemicals to at least a portion of the surface.--

#### REMARKS

The present application is ready for substantive examination. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any issues would be expedited by such conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN CAMPBELL  
LEIGH & WHINSTON, LLP

By   
Stacey C. Slater  
Registration No. 36,011

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600  
121 S.W. Salmon Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Telephone: (503) 226-7391  
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446